

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending, including independent claims 1, 8, 9 and 16.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite because the independent claims recite “a control surface having a display member and/or a control member” or similar language. Applicants have amended this language in independent claims 1, 8, 9 and 16 to recite “at least one of a display member and a control member.” The Examiner has indicated that if this indefiniteness rejection is overcome, claims 9-20 would be allowable and dependent claim 2 would contain patentable subject matter.

Claims 1 also has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, and claim 2 has been cancelled. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-7 contain patentable subject matter.

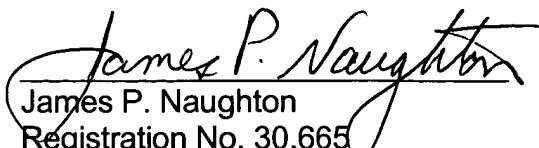
Independent claim 8 also has been amended to clarify that the movable member is moved to be fully retracted in the opening, and to clarify that a cover provided on the movable member covers the opening when the movable member is in the retracted position. This is not suggested in the cited prior art.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over USP 5,815,468 (“Muramatsu”) and USP 3,832,909 (“Pflin”). Muramatsu describes an in-vehicle electronic device in which the front face can be pivoted 90° and retracted partly within the device (see, e.g., Figs. 4, 8, 16, 18). The Examiner states that Pflin provides the suggestion to retract the face entirely within the device. Applicants disagree. Pflin describes a dashboard-mounted map display device that is normally stowed in a cavity within the dashboard, but which can be withdrawn from the cavity for use (see, e.g., col. 3, lines 44-64; Figs. 1,3). Thus, Pflin has nothing to do with Applicants’ invention which is directed to a removable front face on an electronic device installed in a vehicle. There is no movable front face in Pflin that is removed from an electronic device and stored in an opening, and there is no suggestion that Pflin should be modified or combined with any such system.

Claim 8 is directed to an embodiment in which a cover is provided on the movable member and covers the opening when the movable member is retracted. (See the exemplary embodiment in the application at p. 30, line 13 to p. 31, line 18.) This is not described or suggested in either reference.

In summary, Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are patentable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,


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